



SENIOR & LONG TERM CARE DIVISION COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER Policy Manual

Section: SERVICES

**Subject: Specialized Medical Equipment
and Supplies**

References: ARM: 37.40.1487

DEFINITION

Specialized medical equipment and supplies include devices, controls, or appliances which enable members to increase their abilities to perform activities of daily living (ADLs), or to perceive, control, or communicate with the environment in which they live. This service includes the provision of service animals. The procedure code for this service also includes reimbursement for consultation and training.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. A service animal is an adaptive intervention specially trained to do work or perform tasks which benefit an individual with a disability or an individual who is aged. This service animal is intended to increase autonomy, to decrease functional limitations, to access the home or public environment, to provide for safety, and to reduce the risk of institutionalization.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Specialized medical equipment and supplies:
 - a. Must be functionally necessary and relate specifically to the member's disability;
 - b. Must not be reimbursable under State Plan Durable Medical Equipment;
 - c. Must provide for the member's accessibility, increased independence, health or safety;

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- d. Must be based on a reasonable expectation that the item will promote the member's functional abilities or the ability of a caregiver or service provider to maintain the member in the home;
- e. Must be the most cost effective item, which can meet the needs of the member;
- f. Will be limited to a one-time purchase or rental with the exception of supplies not covered under State Plan services. The Department at its discretion may authorize an exception to this. Any exception must be prior authorized by the Department (refer to HCBS 403 and HCBS 899-22);
- g. Includes Wander guards used for the supervision and safety of members with cognitive disabilities;
- h. In excess of \$5000 must be prior authorized by the Department;
- i. Include the purchase of environmental control units for the member upon evaluation by a technical consultant to determine which type of unit best meets the member's needs;
- j. For service animals may include:
 - i. Ancillary supplies if specifically related to the performance of the service animal to meet the specific needs of the member. If not provided by the training organization, these supplies may include leashes, harness, backpack and mobility cart; and
 - ii. Ancillary care for the service animal if specifically related to the health and maintenance of that animal. These services may include veterinarian care, transportation for veterinarian care, license and/or registration. Grooming may be also included but only if the member or primary caregiver is unable to provide for this maintenance.

2. Specialized medical equipment and supplies shall not constitute:

- a. Those items used for leisure and recreational purposes only and not determined to be necessary for the member to remain in the home;

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- b. Items of clothing;
- c. Basic household furniture;
- d. Items that are educational in nature such as computers, software, or books unless these are required to promote independent living and community integration;
- e. Supplies for service animals:
 - i. Pets, companion animals, social therapy animals;
 - ii. Guard, police, rescue, sled, tracking, or any other animal not specifically designated as a service animal;
 - iii. Wild, exotic or any other animals not specifically supplies by a training program on the approved provider list.

3. A consult is mandated for the following items by the specified by the professional:

- a. Environmental control units by MonTech, or other qualified provider;
- b. Dietary supplements by an MD, naturopath, nurse practitioner, dietitian or nutritionist;
- c. Augmentative communication devices by a speech therapist or language pathologist;
- d. Electronic communication devices for memory, organization or tracking of household management by a speech therapist, language pathologist or occupational therapist;
- e. Air conditioner/purifier – letter of medical necessity from an MD;
- f. Wheelchairs, scooters, four-wheel walkers, standing frames, and stair climbers by an occupational or physical therapist or an assistive technology practitioner;

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- g. Computer interface systems by MonTech;
- h. Switches and special phones by MonTech;
- i. Service dogs by an occupational therapist; and
- j. Any other new or unusual high tech item by MonTech.

4. Service animals:

- a. To be a qualified provider of service animals, a provider must:
 - 1. Have successfully placed three service animals within the past eight years;
 - 2. Have submitted a Request for Information and Qualifications proposal to Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) for approval; and
 - 3. Have submitted to DPHHS the Service Animal Provider Assurance form, DPHHS-SLTC-142. Refer to HCBS 899-23.
- b. All requests must be submitted to and approved by the Service Animal Selection Committee composed of the designated Service Animal Committee Coordinator, local Regional Program Officer (RPO), Case Management Team (CMT), and the applicant prior to the commencement of any training. Procedures for the procurement of service animals will be as follows:
 - 1. Case Management teams must follow the steps outlined in the Service Animals – Case Management Team’s Role handout (See HCBS 799-3).
 - 2. Members must follow the steps outlined in the Service Animals – Member’s Role handout (See HCBS 799-4) and sign and comply with the requirements in the Service Animals – Stewardship form DPHHS-SLTC-147 (See HCBS 899-24).